से सरकार यह कह रही थी, इसी तरीके से आंसर दे रही थी, जो आपने .रिटेन आंसर दिया है। इसी तरीके का आंसर आपके तीन प्रिडिसेसर ने इसी हाऊस में दिया है। इसमें कुछ तबदीली चाहिए, हम इस पर विचार कर रहे हैं, लेकिन कोई तारीख तय नहीं कर सकते। आप कोई फैसला ही नहीं लेते तो तारीख कैसे तय करेंगे क्योंकि तारीख के लिए भी एक फैसला लेना जरूरी है। असल यह बात है कि जब तक आप फैसला नहीं कर रहे, आप दूरदर्शन को, आकाशवाणी को एक राजनैतिक प्रचार के अंग के रूप में, मशीन के रूप में इस्तेमाल कर रहे हैं और वह भी दूसरों के खिलाफ डिसक्रिमिनेशन करके, सिर्फ दूसरी पोलिटिकल पार्टी के ही नहीं, दूसरी जो राज्य सरकार हैं उसके खिलाफ भी। इसलिए यह प्रसार भारती की जरूरत है। सबसे बड़ा हमारा राष्ट्रीयता का सवाल है कि हमारे जो राष्ट्रीय प्रचार माध्यम हैं, उसमें विश्वसनीयता घट रही है जनता की और वह विदेशी प्रचार माध्यम के ऊपर निर्भर कर रही है। मेरा प्रश्न आपके भविष्य के लिए है, देश के भविष्य को छोड़ दीजिए, अपने भविष्य के लिए सोचिए। मेरा प्रश्न है, क्या आपको मालूम है कि जब आपसे पहले, प्रधानमंत्री भी छोड़ दीजिए, सूचना प्रसारण मंत्री को जिस तरह से दिलाया जाता है, क्योंकि आपके आफीसर जोन स्पेशल ड्यूटी आप पोस्टिंग करते हैं, न्यूज क्या क्या जाएगी, वह मंत्रालय देखती है और मंत्री जी की जब पत्नी भी देखती है उसका फैसला ऐसा होता है। के०पी०सिंह देव जब तक ये तो जैसे आपको दिखाया जाता है, वैसे ही उनको दिलाया जाता था। वह रायफल एसोसिएशन के प्रेजीडेंट भी हैं, जब कामनवेल्थ में इंडियन टीम को दो गोल्ड मैडल मिले तो वह भी नहीं दिखाया क्योंकि सिंहदेव जी अभी रायफल एसोसियेशन के प्रेसीडेंट हैं। तो मंत्रालय के निर्देश पर आप अगर उनको जबरदस्ती ठूंसते हैं कोई चीज, लेकिन जब आप मंत्री नहीं रहेंगे तो सिंहदेव जी जैसी हालत आपकी भी होगी। अजीत पांजा जी को रोज दिलाया जाता था, जब वह सूचना प्रसारण मंत्री थे, लेकिन अब वह इंदिरा गांधी स्टेचू में जाकर माला डाला तो कलकत्ता दूरदर्शन ने ब्लाक कांग्रेस के नेता का नाम भी लिया, लेकिन अजीत पांजा जी का नाम नहीं लिया। आप यही काम कर रहे हैं। अगर आपको इंडिपेंडेंट देना है, स्वायतता देना है तो वह आपके निजी स्वार्थ के लिए होगा, आपके दल के स्वार्थ के लिये होगा। तो मैं इस सवाल को दोहरा रहा हूं कि कब तक? सीधे उत्तर नहीं देते आप आश्वासन का, इसलिए मैं यह पूछना चाहूंगा कि कब तक दूरदर्शन की न्यूज को, आप अपने आफीसर ओन स्पेशल ड्यूटी बैठाकर, कंट्रोल करेंगे? मैं यही जानना चाहता हूं।

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: I must respectfully submit that what ever the hon. Member has said is only his own perception which I do not share....(*Interruptions*)...As far as time-frame is concerned, I have said that I am asking for six months more time.

Extension given to S.B.I. Officials

*25. SHRI PASUMPON THA. KIRUTTINAN:†
SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the procedure adopted by Government in the matter of granting extension in service to the officers/Chairman of the S.B.I., its associates and nationalised banks and the level at which final decision is taken in such cases;

(b) the guidelines governing such extensions in service; and

(c) the number of cases indicating the name, designation and the bank concerned where extensions have been given retrospective effect since 1.1.1996, the level at which such decisions were taken and the reasons for not issuing the orders before the actual date of superannuation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) (i) The officers of the State Bank of India, its associates and nationalised banks are governed by the rules and regulations governing the conditions of service applicable to the respective banks.

(ii) In the case of officers of State Bank of India and its associates, the extensions are decided by the

†The Question was actually asked in the floor of the House by Shri Pasumpon Tha. Kiruttinan.

respective competent authorities of the bank which may, at their discretion, extend the period of service of an officer, if such extensions are deemed desirable in the interests of the concerned bank.

(iii) In the case of officers of nationalised banks, wherever provisions for extensions exist in the service regulations, competent authorities of the bank may, at their discretion, grant the extension to an officer where it is considered necessary in the interests of the bank.

(iv) Appointments of a Chairman and not more than two Managing Directors of the State Bank of India are done by the Central Government in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India in terms of Section 19(1) of the State Bank of India Act, 1955.

(v) The Chairman of State Bank of India is the ex-officio Chairman of associate banks of State Bank of India.

(vi) Appointment of Chairman and Managing Directors and Executive Directors of the nationalised banks is done by the Central Government in exercise of powers conferred by the provisions contained in the Banking Companies (Acquisitions and Transfer of undertakings) Act, 1970/1980 read with the provision contained in the National Banks (Management and Miscellaneous Provisions) Scheme, 1970/1980.

(vii) The Chairman as well as Managing Directors of State Bank of India and Chairman and Managing Directors as well as Executive Directors of nationalised banks are eligible for reappointment.

(c) Government of India has not given extensions either to the Chairmen or Managing Directors of State bank of India or Chairman & Managing Directors or Executive Directors of any of the nationalised banks with retrospective effect since 01.01.1995 to date. However, in the case of one nationalised bank, the tenure of the Chairman has been extended beyond the normal retirement age of 60 years until further orders.

SHRI PASUMPON THA. KIRUTTINAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am very sorry to say that the answer given by the hon. Minister is incomplete. I should also say that it is irrelevant. My question is very specific. I asked about the procedure adopted by the Government in the matter of granting extension in service to the officers/Chairman of the SBI, its associates and nationalised banks and the level at which the final decision is taken in such cases. I do not ask about the appointing authority of the Chairman or the officers. I asked about the extension in service to the officers as well as the Chairman. The Minister has said that in the case of officers of the State Bank of India and its associates, the extension is decided by the respective competent authorities. Who is the competent authority? That has not been mentioned. Then I asked about the number of cases, indicating the name, designation and the bank concerned where extensions have been given with retrospective effect since 1.1.1995. That list has not been given. Will the Minister give us a full detailed, list of the officers and the Chairmen who have been given reappointments or extension in service in the State Bank of India as well as in the other nationalised banks? Will the Minister give the list so that I can put my supplementary question?

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Sir, when a question is put, a proper reply should be given.

DR. DEBIPROSAD PAL: Sir, in my reply itself, it has been stated that appointments and extensions are given by the respective banks according to the regulations which have been framed by them. There are many different regulations in respect of different banks. Re-

garding top-level appointments, including Chairman and also Managing Directors, both of the State bank of India and other nationalised banks, a High-Powered Appointments Committee has been constituted and it is for this Committee to consider whether any extension should be given or not.

Now the question is whether any extensions have been given after 1.1.1995. This question has been answered in my reply, i.e., after 1.1.95 no extension has been given after the service period has expired.

SHRI PASUMPON THA. KIRUTTINAN: I am asking about the officers.

DR. DEBIPROSAD PAL: Yes, my reply is about the officers including the Chairmen or the Managing Directors of the State Bank of India or of any other nationalised banks. There have been no extensions given to any officers after their service has expired after 1.1.95. Therefore, the question of giving any information or details on this issue does not arise.

SHRI PASUMPON THA. KIRUTTINAN: How can it be, Sir? I know many such cases. I want a list of all those officers.

DR. DEBIPROSAD PAL: Sir, the hon. member's question is about extension given after 1.1.95.

SHRI PASUMPON THA. KIRUTTINAN: Then I will put a specific question. I would like to know whether Shri Srivastava, General Manager of the State Bank of Indore who had been indicated by the CBI, was due to retire on 30th September, 1995 and whether was granted extension of his service for six months with retrospective effect without following the proper procedure thereby barring promotions to his junior officers.

The second part of my supplementary is whether there was some understanding between Shri Srivastava and some senior officers of the banking Division of the Ministry of Finance in contravention of the policy of the Government. I would like to know whether the Government proposes to take any action in this matter.

The third part of my question is, how many letters were received by the Government from the Members of Parliament and others regarding charges of corruption and of misbehaviour towards lady staff involving Shri Srivastava? If so, what action has been taken against that officer in this regard? What was the reason for giving extension to this particular officer?

DR. DEBIPROSAD PAL: The question, Sir, is whether any extension has been given to any officer after the expiry of his service after 1.1.95. Regarding the question which my hon. Member is now raising, we have to collect the information and we will send him a reply in due course because that was not within the scope of the main question. Therefore, we cannot answer it immediately. We can reply to it only after the particulars are collected.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Satish Agarwal...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI PASUMPON THA. KIRUTTINAN: The hon. Minister is saying that there were no extensions given to any officers. But I have given a particular case.

DR. DEBIPROSAD PAL: Sir, his question concerns with those officers whose service had expired. Extension given to an officer whose service has not expired and who is still serving is a different one. The question of extension in this case will arise during the continuance of his service.

SHRI PASUMPON THA. KIRUTTINAN: Sir, that officer was due to retire on 30.9.95. His service was to expire on 30.9.95...(*Interruptions*)... This particular officer was given extension of service with retrospective effect from 1.1.1995.

DR. DEBIPROSAD PAL: Sir, the particular officer about whom the hon. Member is speaking, completes his service on 30th September, 1995...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: Sir, extension was given with retrospective effect... (*Interruptions*)... Before the expiry of service, there have been no extensions. Now the question is about extensions given after the expiry period is over, i.e., three months after this period. Then what action is taken? Is this answer relevant?

DR. DEBIPROSAD PAL: Sir, in this particular case, extension has been given by the bank concerned and not by the Government. I have already submitted before the House that each bank has its own Board of Directors and also other officers. Therefore, if any extension is given by a bank, it is not extension given by the Government. In any event, if information is sought about a particular officer, we have to collect it and only then can we give a reply to the hon. Member.

SHRI PASUMPON THA. KIRUTTINAN: So many Members of Parliament have written letters to the hon. Minister. I would like to know whether he has received those letters or not. (*Interruptions*)

DR. DEBIPROSAD PAL: I do not know whether any such letter has been received. I will enquire into it. But those letters should relate to (*Interruptions*) the particular query which has been made in this particular question.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister is seeking *alibis* under some mis-drafting of the question. But it is clear so far as part (c) of the question is concerned. Regarding part (c) of the question, the hon. Minister has replied:

> "Government of India has not given extensions either to the Chairmen or Managing Directors of State Bank of India or Chairmen & Managing Directors or Executive Directors of any of the nationalised banks with retrospective effect since 01.01.1995 to date. However, in the case of one nationalised bank, the tenure of the Chairman has been extended beyond the normal retirement age of 60 years until further orders."

Is there a criterion with the Government for giving extensions? If so, what is it? Secondly, who is that particular officer of a nationalised bank who has been given this extension? Probably, he is somewhere in Tamil Nadu; he may be in Madras. I read a news item some time back, probably last week, that he is very popular with the cinema staff, going here and there and like Jayalalitha he is always available for inaugurating functions. His public relations seem to be very good. Is that the only reason why this particular officer has been given extension? Is there a criterion laid down for that? What are the names of persons who have been given extension prior to 1.1.1995? You have taken the plea of the mis-drafting of the question saying "since 1.1.1995"...*(Interruptions)* What about the position prior to 1.1.1995? Please place a list on the Table of the House.

DR. DEBIPROSAD PAL: If the question had been about the period prior to 1.1.1995, we could have collected all the information and given to the hon. Member. But the question specifically is whether there has been any such extension retrospectively after 1.1.1995. That is why the answer has been given that there has been no such retrospective extension after 1.1.1995, except in one case and that is, the Chairman of the Punjab and Sind Bank, which has already been given in the statement that has been placed.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: He is too technical on the formulation of the question. So, a very right supplementary arises. It is not a question of retrospective extension from 1.1.1995, it is a question of extension. Let it be a question of extension; if not retrospective, otherwise also.

DR. DEBIPROSAD PAL: Regarding extension, I have already made my submission, namely, that before the

expiry of the service of a particular officer, the appropriate authority in the bank....

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL : I am not talking about the officers. I am talking about the Chairman and the Managing Directors.

DR. DEBIPROSAD PAL: There has been no extension after the expiry of service in the case of Chairman or Managing Directors.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL : Prior to 1.1.1995?

DR. DEBIPROSAD PAL: Yes. There has been no extension after the service has expired, except in the case of the Chairman, Punjab and Sind Bank.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL : Even prior to 1.1.1995?

DR. DEBIPROSAD PAL: Sir, Prior to 1.1.1995, it is vague and indefinite. Prior to 1.1.1995, may be. It may be 1994; it may be 1993; it may be 1992. Therefore, unless the question is specific, an answer cannot be given.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL : Sir, he is taking the plea of mis-formulation of the question. Why is he not forthright?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the general policy with regard to the appointment of the Chairman and Managing Director of the state Bank and Chairman and Executive Directors of the nationalised banks is, we have an Appointments Board presided over by the Governor of the Reserve Bank. It has two outside experts also. Those recommendations are then processed in the Ministry of Finance and then sent to the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet for approval. The general guideline is that if a person's working is satisfactory and if his term expires before he is 60, we normally extend the tenure of that particular person till the age of 60, subject to proper vigilance clearance.

It is only when the persons were appointed before they were sixty. Until sixty extensions have been given. As far as extensions beyond sixty are concerned, I think, there is only one case, as has been mentioned in the reply.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ashok Mitra.

SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Sir, this is the first question which the Minister of State is fielding and I do not want to be difficult. In any case, the Finance Minister has provided some additional information because what was originally stated was certainly not the truth and the complete story. It is not that decisions were not taken before the appointments of Chairman and Managing Directors were made. The file goes up to the Ministry of Finance and it goes to the Finance Minister and finally it is sent to the Prime Minister. I would mention additional instances also. The State Bank of India is a leading commercial bank in the country and at the term of the previous Chairman and Managing Director expired, there was a lot of speculation in the newspapers. Finally the newspapers carried a news item that the Finance Minister had cleared the name—the continuance of the previous Chairman for another three months. Suddenly, ten days after, perhaps, another news item came saying that the Finance Minister said, 'Yes', but the Prime Minister said, 'No'. So, he has been packed off. There should be some dignity in such matters. After all, why cannot you take some decision fairly early so that such people who serve the nation well go out quietly and with a certain feeling of warmth and goodwill towards the Go Government and towards the employees?

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: What is the question?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Why cannot you take a decision? (*Interruptions*)

DR. DEBIPROSAD PAL: But gracefully.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri S.R. Bommai.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, from this side also. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMAPPA R. BOMMAI: Sir, extension while still in service, after the expiry of the term, makes no difference. Extension is an extension. I would like to know the number of vacancies of Chairmen and Managing Directors in the State Bank of India as well as the nationalised banks.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: The total number is eleven.

SHRI SOMAPPA R. BOMMAI: Since when? Why have you not been filling them? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: It is already there.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: The hon. Member can see the reply to Starred Question No. 27. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Finance Minister as to how many Chairmen have been appointed in the nationalised banks against whom enquiries are pending? Because, I came to know from certain reports that there are some officers against whom CBI enquiries are pending and they have been given the posts of Chairman. How many of them have been given and why?

DR. DEBIPROSAD PAL: Sir, this is a matter which has to be inquired into. At the moment, I have no information with me and, therefore, I shall send the reply after making a proper enquiry. I do not know whether any enquiry is pending when the appointment of a Chairman or a Managing Director was made.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Vayalar Ravi.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Sir, it is said that eleven posts of Executive Directors and Managing Directors are vacant as, for example, Indian Overseas Bank, for the past sixteen months. I would like to know from the Minister why there is such a long-delay in recruiting the Chairman and Managing Director? Why extension is being given without filling this post?

DR. DEBIPROSAD PAL: We have given this in the statement which has been filed against Question No. 27. Only excepting the case of Indian Overseas Bank where there has been some decision because of certain exigencies of situations.

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: Sir, I was raising a policy issue regarding the guarantee of the autonomy. If you really want to guarantee the autonomy of the public enterprises, then the senior appointees like Chairmen and Managing Directors should be appointed by such a committee which is absolutely impartial and they are not subjected to manipulations by bureaucrats and Ministers. Can you ensure this by appointing a high-powered committee which appoints chairmen and other senior officials in such a way that the autonomy of the public sector enterprises is guaranteed?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Question Hour is over.